



MISSION STATEMENT

Walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to every person

CHRIST WITH US IN SEPTEMBER

God's Goodness

"Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits." Psalm 103:1-2

In our day-to-day lives, it is sometimes lost that we are ever in God's presence, protected safely under His wing. And not only are we protected, we are provisioned, pardoned and prepared. We are often so busy that we neglect scripture, prayer, worship or fellowship. Psalm 103 reminds us that God is good all the time and that it is appropriate and even necessary to take time for Pray, Praise and Give Thanks.

This piece of Old Testament poetry, reminds us that God forgives our sins and that reminds us of Christ's innocent, bitter suffering and death for me and for you. **Praise the Lord!** It speaks to the healing of our diseases. There is the physical healing that we have so often received when we have prayed for relief from pain and suffering, and also reminds us that we are permanently healed from sin-sickness that always leads to soul-sickness. We are healed through the blood of the Lamb who knew no sin. **Praise the Lord!** We are reminded that we have had our lives "redeemed from the pit and are crowned with love and compassion." Instead of dying and being left in eternal darkness, permanently separated from God's love, we are "crowned with love and compassion." God loves us, His love rests upon our heads and His compassion dries our tears and comforts us in our sorrow. **Praise the Lord!** The Psalm reminds us that we are filled with good things; we are well provisioned and we are renewed over and over again in faith and in hope. **Praise the Lord!** Even better, there is good news that God works righteousness and there will be justice for the oppressed; "those who have walked in darkness will see a great light" and "the meek shall inherit the earth" *Isaiah 9:2 and Matthew 5:5* **Praise the Lord!**

The Psalm also speaks of God's mercy and grace: "The Lord is compassionate and gracious...slow to anger and abounding in love...He does not treat us as our sins deserve...For as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us... From everlasting to ever-

CHRIST WITH US (Con't.)

lasting the Lord's love is with those who fear Him...Praise the Lord all you heavenly hosts, you servants who do His will, Praise the Lord all His works...**Praise the Lord O my soul!**" Take the time and read this Psalm. Remember, rejoice, and **Praise the Lord!** And share the good news by walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to every person. **Praise the Lord!**

Heavenly Father, slow me down. Send me the Holy Spirit to guide me in praise, gratitude and contentment. Let every day of my life be a hymn of praise. Amen!!



We will soon be looking for the rest of our church family to return to sunny Yuma, which always excites me. It also means that there are additional volunteers available for the various tasks needed to make our weekend services flow smoothly. **I am in need of men** to volunteer to read the announcements prior to service so if you can do that, please let me know. The announcements are written out and placed on the Lectern so all you need to do is read them. I am always open to additional volunteers to be ushers, greeters/communion assistants and readers of the lesson...so give that some thought as well.

I have 4 teams of 2 available to tend to the sound system/livestream at this point and that seems to be working well. If there is anyone else out there that would like to help with that task, please let me know.

Char Schomisch, Co-Chair



Your Vicars are at work on a daily basis to fulfill our calling as servants of the Word. We are not ordained ministers. To be ordained, one must complete a long and rigorous educational process. Each of the Vicars has attended (or is attending) a year long program through Luther Sem-

inary called Faith+Lead, which covers everything from sermon writing, to how to minister to the grieving, to managing leadership positions within church committees. And we each have a firm foundation of being taught the Holy Scriptures and a strong background in both the Old and New Testaments. We are more "Pastors Lite". We have been blessed with God's grace and have been granted the authority to pronounce the forgiveness of sins and to speak the words of consecration over the bread and wine before Holy Communion. The Vicars do not all have the same gifts, so we attempt to shine in the areas where we have been blessed and equipped to manage. In the book, "Dying to Live", Harold L. Senkbeil describes a critical part of our calling: "Christ calls every Christian to be His witness, but He doesn't call every Christian to be His minister, or agent. ..He works uniquely in the church through His ministers for the forgiveness of sins. It is Christ Himself who stands behind the office of the ministry. We are His earthly agents for our heavenly Lord. He gives His called servants power of attorney, as it were. When we forgive, God forgives. Our word is to be regarded as His word. God has so arranged it in His Church that when appointed servants of Christ speak His word of forgiveness, it is to be regarded as Christ's very own word. God speaks His forgiveness to us through a pastor (or Vicar), He provides His help and consolation in fellowship with others...we have called that Vicar to be a spokesperson for God, to perform the sacred duties of God's holy ministry among us. We are all deeply moved and humbled by this calling and the great responsibility. When you speak your confession on Sunday morning and you hear, through the attending Vicar, "Your sins are forgiven", that Vicar is representing the mercy and grace of our Lord Himself. When we prepare and deliver a sermon, you can be assured that we are dutifully speaking the Word in power and in truth. The Holy Spirit is moving in all of us...in your Vicars to be faithful messengers of the truth, of forgiveness, and are deliverers of the means of Grace and you are hearers and doers of the Word and you also have gifts of the Spirit which equip you to do His work faithfully and with joy. And together we are The Church!

Thank you for the blessing of your grace and love. And please continue to lift us up in prayer.

In Christ,

Shirley, Char, Paula, Jerry, & Judy

From the desk of Dr. Shirley . . .



Happy September! It is exciting to write to you again! Seemingly, the closer we get to the end of the year, the faster it goes. In five weeks, we will start preparing for Saturday services at 4:00 in the afternoon. Yes, the current plan is for the Vicars to do two services each weekend while the Call Committee continues to search for the Pastor God has for us.

I'm reading a book that is new to me and which I find very helpful. You may like to get a print or a digital copy to investigate yourself. The book is *Disarming Leviathan: Loving Your Christian Nationalist Neighbor* by Caleb E. Campbell. He defines and differentiates between nationalism and patriotism—two words that are often used interchangeably, but which are in fact vastly different.

Another book that I am currently reading is *The Immortal Mind: A Neurosurgeon's Case for the Existence of the Soul*, by Michael Egnor and Denyse O'Leary. I have always believed in the existence of our souls, but it is very interesting to read the scientific evidence that the soul does not die.

Those of you who enjoy lighter reading with a touch of mystery or intrigue might enjoy the Pastor Steven Grant series of 19 novels by Ray Keating. Pastor Steven Grant is in his third career. First, he was a Navy SEAL, then an analyst for the CIA, then God called him into seminary and the ministry as a Lutheran pastor. The first book in the series is *Warrior Monk*.

Last, but not least, I have been reading from *Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence* by Sarah Young (2004). The brief paragraphs are paraphrases of scriptures written as though Jesus were speaking. For example, Philippians 2:9-11 and Isaiah 43:1 (p. 240) appear this way:

Find me in the midst of the maelstrom. Sometimes events whirl around you so quickly that they become a blur. Whisper My Name in recognition that I am still with you. Without skipping a beat in the activities that occupy you, you find strength and Peace through praying My Name. Later, when the happenings have run their course, you can talk with Me more fully.

Accept each day just as it comes to you. Do not waste your time and energy wishing for a different set of circumstances. Instead, trust Me enough to yield to My design and purposes. Remember that nothing can separate you from My loving Presence; *you are Mine*.



FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

It's a good thing we have colored pictures on our calendars, otherwise some of us might not know that September is some Fall thing. (obviously not in Yuma). I found another way to acknowledge the changing of the season. Read the August and September EVANGEL. A few things to check out:

Mary Marsh says GriefShare is coming back in September. Double check the bulletin. Glorious Quilters meet Mondays 9-12, with a coffee break at 10 am. Doesn't get better than that! You don't have to know how to sew, non-sewers are needed and you can make new friends. Sometimes the best way to get through the last weeks of heat is to be of service to someone you don't know.

Are you too busy to commit to a Bible Study or maybe you are insecure with your knowledge of scripture so you don't want to attend and feel uncomfortable. Get out last month's Evangel; go to page 9 sponsored by the Health and Wellness Committee and find a personal, private Bible Study to use in your time at home...it's an eye opener.

Be sure to read Dave's article about the property. We take so many things for granted...like green bushes and clean sidewalks! Be grateful someone does that as an act of service and love for our church.

If you like birthday parties and great fellowship, join the Social Concerns team. They work behind the scenes by delivering our monthly food to the Yuma Community Food Bank, send out those beautiful cards for your birthday/ anniversary, and makes sure Crossroads Mission doesn't run out of water.

Probably the most visible ministry is Worship and Music. Can you imagine how many people serve on any given Sunday? Like greeters, ushers, announcers, sound system/livestream, choir, special music, coffee makers and dishwashers....just to mention a few. ***Why not put a note on your green slip on Sunday and offer to serve in the area that interests you.***

Stephen Ministry Training will resume in the Fall. Think and pray about this ministry. The names and contact numbers of Ministry Leaders are listed on each article in the Evangel and on the back cover.

Seeeeeeeee...Fall is not a bad thing...it can change your life!!



FELLOWSHIP

The old saying that the older you get the faster time goes by is so true for this writer. We are gearing up for a 'Ring of Fire' dinner. We will be indoors due to the hot weather. We will be having hamburgers and hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw and cake. There will be a 'fire' in the middle of the room and plenty of singing for all. Come and join in the fun! You may even wear your cowboy hat!!

We are all waiting for our friends to return from their summer vacations. It will be nice to see them and hear about their adventures.

September 1st is just around the corner....looking forward to the Monthly Breakfast Brunch.

Merrilee Kaiser, Fellowship Chair

GLORIOUS QUILTERS



September, Please tell me that means cooler weather! Yes I know, maybe October. We can dream can't we?

I can not believe we are already getting quilts in the making for Christmas as well as for the Veterans.

I've already spoken to Sheryl at Arizona Baptist Children's Services, which is the Foster children we gave gifts to last year. They are so grateful to receive Christmas quilts for the youngsters. So that's why we've started early. I've also spoken to the Rock Church about getting knitted or crochet caps to them. Last year we, that is all of you that helped make them, gave 160 caps! Sooo if you knit or crochet and want something to do, make a cap. Any pattern will work, remembering they are usually for an adult.

Soon our Winter visitors will be coming home to our warmer climate. We welcome that part of our family back.

Your visit is always welcomed, coffee and treats at 10. You may find we're a great fit and a lot of fun!

Give me a call via text 503-338-9358, or just stop in to see what the Ladies are up to on any Monday morning.

Carol Schock, Coordinator

Joel 2

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

What does that even mean? If you read the entire scripture it states that God is promising to make Israel great and that he will support them forever.

I believe that this is a message to all who believe in him that he will support them forever.

Not much going on in Outreach. Will probably get a highway clean up scheduled once it starts to cool down. The welcome back bash usually happens in December so watch the bulletin for updates. Anything else comes up I will update that in the bulletin.

Thanks!

Joe Johnson, Outreach



PROPERTY



Property is looking pretty good and has stood the heat test this summer. Thankfully the irrigation problems have been less this year due to the repairs we made early on. The weeds seem to be thriving in this heat if only the plants would do as well. I could use some volunteer workers in the gardens weeding, early in the mornings before it heats up. If anybody has a cordless hedge trimmer and knows how to trim bushes you are also welcome to help me dress up the place. I think that this fall when our winter visitors return, we will organize a workday.

I hope your summer was a safe one and we look forward to seeing you soon. God bless and safe travels.

Dave Donaldson



SMILE: The 10 Benefits of Smiling

"Let a smile be your umbrella", or so the song says. This is backed up by both science and scripture. There are many scriptural references to the benefits of a cheerful mood in the face of sadness. A few of these are:

Romans 12:12 "let hope keep you joyful..."

Proverbs 17:22 "A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance..."

Job 9:27 "If I think I will forget my griefs, I will show a cheerful face and smile."

While smiling can be involuntary it can also be a conscious choice whether it is genuine or not it can benefit your mood and the people around you.

The 10 benefits of smiling are:

- 1) Helps us live longer: Intense smiling has been associated with longer life.
- 2) Relieves stress: Putting on a smile even if faking it decreases stress.
- 3) Elevates mood: The physical act of smiling activates our neural pathways that influence our emotional state. We can trick our minds into a state of happiness. It's a natural antidepressant triggering the release of "happy" chemicals that boost our mood.
- 4) It's contagious: Our brain automatically notices the facial expression of others and we tend to mimic them unconsciously.
- 5) Lowers blood pressure: Laughter relaxes muscles and lowers blood pressure.
- 6) Boosts the Immune system: By activating the parasympathetic nervous system to release hormones and antibodies and reduce inflammation.
- 7) Reduce pain: Brain chemicals that make us feel good (endorphins and serotonin) are released and make us feel better head to toe.
- 8) Makes you attractive: Smiles lift the face, making a person appear younger. People are drawn to people who smile because we associate it with positive personality traits.
- 9) Suggests success: People who smile appear to be more confident.
- 10) Helps you stay positive: Whether your smile is genuine or not it sends a message that "life is good" to your brain and the rest of your body.

11)

How do you do this when you feel lousy! There is a mindfulness exercise called "half-smile". You cannot feel sad when you smile. Just a small peasant smile will begin to lift your mood. Give it a try when that umbrella is upside down.



SOCIAL CONCERNS

Could fall be around the corner? The summer is long and hot but the months seem to go by quickly. Soon another busy fall/winter season will be upon us. The social concerns committee continues with our projects: Greeting cards, collection center, food bank, Rose Garden birthdays. We had a special gift of book corners with scripture reading as a gift for members. Hope you enjoyed them.

Food bank collection continues the first Sunday each month. The totals this year are:

Jan.	365	Feb.	200 lbs.	March	100 lbs.	April	230 lbs.
May	250 lbs.	June	218 lbs.	July (scale broke unable to weigh)			
Aug.	150 lbs.						

The needs continue and as costs rise so do the needs. Please continue to be as generous as you can.

Your ideas and participation are appreciated and if you would like to join us the committee meets the first Monday each Month in the fellowship hall.

Blessings

Evelyn Trone, Chair

928-210-8015 (phone or text)

1 Peter 4:10

As each received a gift, use it to serve one another, as stewards of God's varied gifts.



Mens' Breakfast will meet on the first Saturday of the month at 8 am at Day-breakers.

Please join us for a time of food and fellowship!!

The next date is
October 4 , 2025



STEWARDSHIP

The virtue of generosity is not only demonstrated by our church congregation, but by the “church” itself. Our church, Gloria de Cristo, recycles YOUR generosity through monthly contributions to the following Arizona Mission Churches: Crossroads Lutheran Church, San Tan Valley; Maricopa Lutheran Church, Maricopa and Iglesia Luterana Vida Nueva, Glendale. Those are “mission congregations” for which we offer our weekly prayers during worship. I’m sure many of you have been present when the pastors of those missions have given a weekend of their time and expressed their thanks and appreciation during our worship services. We continue with generosity and prayers for our “local partners”: Crossroads Mission, Yuma, Pacifica Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, California (according to their website, PLT is the only Lutheran Seminary in the western United States and is wholly affiliated with the ELCA), Grand Canyon Synod (ELCA), and Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat, Wickenburg, Arizona (according to their website, Shepherd’s Canyon provides intensive counseling for full time Christian ministry workers and their families).

The above generosity is shown through a monthly check to each organization listed. It would require much more writing to list all of our church’s recipients. If I were to list all, I’m sure someone would be overlooked...simply check the weekly bulletin.

All of that generosity is awesome!!!!, however it cannot be accomplished without YOUR PERSONAL generosity. The lights must be able to brighten our sanctuary, the temperature should be cool and water should flow freely from the faucets; none of that is free as you all know. Most of us brag about our Vicars...though they are not compensated for ALL the time they expend...they are compensated when delivering the worship service.

Let’s all continue our generosity to our church so that the church can continue her generosity to our neighbors and community. Please remember!!!! That generosity is not just for dollars, but also for some of your time and YOUR talent!!!!

I had to write all of that to get to this.....please put this in your personal memory banks, DIAPERS for Amberly’s Place.... early 2026.... I have not figured out all the details yet. Simply a head’s up in case you want to start hoarding them in the back seats of your car or garage. Perhaps we can surpass the last collection which was just over 2100 diapers. Thanks

Jesus loves your generosity just the same as the lady with only a few mites!!!!

Stewardship, Gary Raasch

YARD SALE



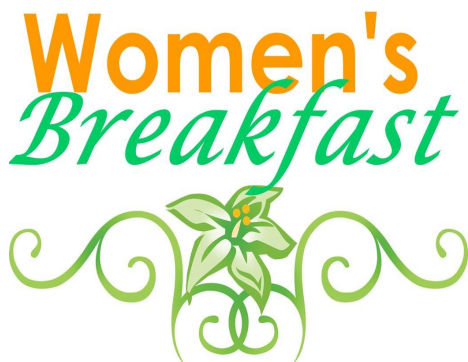
Yard Sale - We Need Your Help!

Once again, we are planning to do drop-offs for donations on the 2nd Saturday of the months leading up to our Annual Yard Sale. But we need your help. We need to have some additional workers on these Saturdays. This involves helping folks unload vehicles, sorting through donations and loading tubs/boxes into our storage containers. We don't overload the boxes and do use dollies to assist with loading. We just need more helping hands! There's plenty of experienced helpers to walk new folks through the process, and it's only a 2-hour shift once a month. We have a lot of fun, and it's a massive help to streamline the yard sale work week just by doing a bit of sorting once a month. Please mark your calendars for the following drop-off dates, all are on Saturday mornings from 8-10. If you want to help work, we do try to get to church around 7:45 to get organized.

October 11, November 8, December 13, January 10.

Please consider volunteering. We will post meeting dates for the Yard Sale meetings next month. Thanks!

Michelle Cegon



*First Saturday of every month, 8:00 am,
Izzy's on Foothills Blvd.*

The next date is: September 6 , 2025

Please come join us for great food, conversation,
and fellowship!

Michelle Cegon

DAYS FOR GIRLS

Hi All,

We are pleased to report that in July 2025, Rtn. Jeremiah Rotich successfully completed another Female Hygiene kit distribution at the school in the Village of Kapcheptoror in west Kenya. See attached. This distribution received financial support from a Foundation in Ohio, a grant from Altrusa in Arizona and a Thrivent Action Team grant in Minnesota.

Sewing, assembly and packing support was provided by volunteers from Rotary (Global Travelers, Maple Grove and Brooklyn Park) , Nativity Lutheran Church (MN), Lord Of Live Lutheran Church (PHX AZ), Gloria de Christo Lutheran Church (Yuma AZ).

It takes a Village to provide a kit.

Shari J: Please forward to LOL volunteers as you determine.

Donna B: Please forward to Gloria de Cristo volunteers as you determine.

Dawn M: Please forward to Altrusa members as you determine.

Jennifer W., Jelan H. and Carol G: Please add to respective newsletters and edit as you determine

Note to Minnesota based Volunteers

The next effort is to provide kits for December transit to Kenya (Phyllis W or Jeremiah), AND kits for transit to Costa Rica/Panama in March 2026 (Travel Team).

TENTATIVE service project and holiday social Saturday, December 13, 2025: 9:00 AM to noon for service project and social time from noon to 1:30 PM. Mark your calendars in **pencil**.

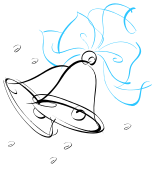
Note to Judy J.: We will plan to pick up the cutter before you depart for FL.

Thanks to all for your past support,

Nancy and Steve Laible



SEPTEMBER 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
	1 LABOR DAY 9 am Glorious Quilters 12 pm Worship Mtg. 12 pm Social Concerns Mtg	2 7 am TOPS	3	4 7 am TOPS 9 am Prayer Fellowship	5 HOLIDAY 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 10:30 am Chair Aerobics 6 pm Women's AA	6 8 am Men's Breakfast Daybreakers 8 am Women's Breakfast, Izzy's on Foothills 9 am TOPS
7 <i>Worship 8:30 AM 9:30 am Monthly Breakfast Food Collection for Yuma Food Pantry</i>	8 9 am Glorious Quilters	9 7 am TOPS 10 am Fellowship Mtg.	10 1 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 5:45 pm Choir	11 7 am TOPS	12 8:30 am-2:30 pm Vision Mtg. 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 10:30 am Chair Aerobics 6 pm Women's AA	13 9 am TOPS 9:00 am Days 4 Girls
14 <i>Worship 8:30 AM</i>	15 9 am Glorious Quilters	16 7 am TOPS 4 pm Council Mtg	17 1 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 5:45 pm Choir	18 7 am TOPS 9 am Prayer Fellowship	19 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 10:30 am Chair Aerobics 6 pm Women's AA	20 9 am TOPS
21 <i>Worship 8:30 AM 12:15 pm GriefShare begins</i>	22 9 am Glorious Quilters	23 7 am TOPS	24 1 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 5:45 pm Choir	25 7 am TOPS 9 am Prayer Fellowship	26 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 10:30 Chair Aerobics 6 pm Women's AA	27 9 am TOPS 9 am Days for Girls
28 <i>Worship 8:30 AM 12:15 pm GriefShare</i>	29 9 am Glorious Quilters	30 7 am TOPS	October 1 1 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 5:45 pm Choir	2 7 am TOPS	3 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 10:30 Chair Aerobics 6 pm Women's AA	4 9 am TOPS



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1	Duane/Pam Carter	21	Darus/Sally White
5	Jim/Margie Hollandsworth	23	Brian/Janis Suess
9	Rick/Bev Theroux	26	Chet/Jeanne Donley
9	Gary/Karel Titus	26	Dave/Lynda Steinman
10	Brent/Jan Pfundheller	28	Roger/Joanne Friz
12	Roland/Linda Anderson		

FLOWERS FOR A SEPTEMBER



- 7 Jim & Margie Hollandsworth I celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary
- 7 Brigitte Arnio in memory of Arnie's birthday
- 14 Shirley Ehler in celebration of Paul's 87th birthday & John's birthday
- 21 Dave & Lynda Steinman in celebration of their 61st wedding anniversary
- 28 Rick & Barbara Sherwood in celebration of their 54th wedding anniversary



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Sandra Corless	8	Jerry Randby	20	Bryan Urrey
2	Linda Strand	9	Shirley Shilley	21	Geoge Alcaraz
5	Danielle Johnson	10	Jan Pfundheller	22	Sally White
6	Bonnie Doll	12	Earl Marlatt	25	Chet Donley
7	Lanna Gosage	12	Sharon Merz	25	Marge Jones
7	Terry Rodgers	12	Russ Neville	25	Sharon Peterson
7	Jay Stokes	14	Joann Larsen	30	Paul Ehler
7	Mary Zieman	18	Barbara Sherwood		
8	Gloria Bishop	20	Joanne Ausing		
8	Caleb Gordy				



Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church,
ELCA
11273 E. 40th Street
Yuma, Az. 85367
Phone: 928-342-6002
Fax: 928-342-7613
Website: www.Gloriadecristo.com

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SEPTEMBER 2025



AUTHORIZED VICARS: Dr. Shirley Ehler Paula Pegues
Judy Zeiss Char Schomisch Jerry Randby

ORGANIST: Dr. Shirley Ehler
PIANISTS: Marie Ritten, Lorie Rapp,
Pam Carter, Suzanne Haggett
VIOLIN: Ami Gudjohnsen
Guitars: Paula Pegues, Randy Zieman
BELLS OF GLORY: Lorie Rapp
CHOIR: Dr. Shirley Ehler

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESIDENT:	John Arnold
VICE PRESIDENT:	Sharon Merz
SECRETARY:	Jackie Tracey
TREASURER:	Char Schomisch

Stephen Ministry Leaders
Jim & Sherrie Wehrer Niki Duffy
Michelle Cegon Sandy Corless
Robin Marlatt

GriefShare Leaders:
Ted & Nikki Duffy
Lisa Crayne
Mary Marsh

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS:

CARE MINISTRY:	Mary Marsh
EDUCATION:	Lynette Layton
FELLOWSHIP:	Merilee Kaiser
OUTREACH:	Joe Johnson
PROPERTY:	Jerry Randby
SOCIAL CONCERNS:	Evelyn Trone
STEWARDSHIP:	Gary Raasch
WORSHIP & MUSIC:	Char Schomisch

Church Secretary: Char Schomisch